

Greenspace Toolkit

Annex 1: Policy Context

1 Direct references to urban green space in policy documents in Wales

Wales Environment Strategy 2006

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/desh/publications/060517environmentstrategyen.pdf>

The Welsh Government's long term strategy for the environment of Wales, setting the strategic direction 2006-2026.

It recognises that poor quality environments with lack of parks and green spaces can have a detrimental effect on our quality of life, and on our health and well-being.

Outcome 27: There is easy, equitable access to ample high quality green space.

There are two indicators of success (Annex B):

- Percentage of people stating that they could access a park easily in the Living in Wales survey
- Additional indicator to be developed from rollout of CCW's green space toolkit (as yet undeveloped)

Wales Environment Strategy 2nd Action Plan 2008-11

<http://wales.gov.uk/desh/publications/enviroprotect/environmentstrategy/environmentactionplan/esap0811e.pdf?lang=en>

Action 13: By end March 2010 – all local authorities to have completed green space assessment using CCW toolkit and grant aid from CCW.

Climbing Higher : The Welsh Assembly Government Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity (January 2005)

<http://wales.gov.uk/depc/publications/cultureandsport/sport/climbinghigher/strategy/climbinghighere.pdf?lang=en>

This sets out the long-term strategy for sport and physical activity in Wales for the next twenty years. Aims to achieve an active, healthy and inclusive Wales

Target 12: No-one should live more than a six-minute walk (300m) from their nearest natural green space.

Climbing Higher – Next Steps 2006

<http://wales.gov.uk/depc/publications/cultureandsport/sport/climbinghigher/nextsteps/nextstepse.pdf?lang=en>

The sport and physical activity action plan 2006-2009

Developing appropriate places to play: The development of local doorstep physical activity locations including improved access to the local outdoor environment for 'green exercise'

Quality of Life Indicators (QOL)

<http://dissemination.dataunitwales.gov.uk/webview/index.jsp?language=en>

Quality of Life indicators are used for community plans and can improve the way in which data is used to drive improvement. These indicators also provide contextual information to facilitate the effective use of data. Since 2002 the Welsh Assembly Data Unit has collected and disseminated Quality of Life indicators for Welsh local authorities. Indicators are divided into themes of:

- Economic Well-being;
- Social Well-being; and
- Environmental Well-being.

QoLW42: The area of parks and green spaces per 1000 head of population.

This indicator has been agreed but not yet (as of 2011) published.

2 Indirect references to urban green space in policy documents in Wales

Written Statement - The Natural Environment Framework 'A Living Wales'

John Griffiths, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development. 15 June 2011
<http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/110615nat/?lang=en>

This updated the National Assembly on the Welsh Government's work on the natural environment and sets out their approach to this subject area. It includes the following sentence:

"I also want us to look particularly at some of our most pressured urban environments to ensure that we deliver a better quality of life for people who live there, looking at all aspects of the local environment."

People, Places, Futures: The Wales Spatial Plan, 2004

<http://wales.gov.uk/dpsp/wspatialplan/documents/2004wsp/2004wsp.pdf?lang=en>

This sets out Welsh Government policies and priorities in a spatial context. There is no direct or indirect mention of urban greenspace

WSP 2008 Update

This brings the Spatial Plan in line with 'One Wales'.

<http://wales.gov.uk/dpsp/wspatialplan/documents/wsp2008update/wsp2008updateee.pdf?lang=en>

Valuing our Environment: Challenges

- Promote wildlife and biodiversity for intrinsic reasons and for people's enjoyment by increasing the quantity and quality of nature sites throughout all Spatial Plan Areas and particularly in urban areas.

Planning Policy Wales 2002

The purpose of Planning Policy Wales is to set the context for sustainable land use planning policy, within which local planning authorities' statutory Unitary development Plans are prepared and development control decisions on individual applications and appeals are taken.

Planning Policy Wales is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes on specific issues.

TAN 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/desh/policy/090206tan16en.pdf>

This TAN aims to further integrate the links between health and well-being, sport and recreational activity and sustainable development in Wales through the development of land use planning guidance.

Section 2 requires the provision of an 'open space' assessment.

Sources of Baseline Information

Para 2.18: Local planning authorities may wish to use and adapt these (CCW Green Space Toolkit) provisions to address their own (open space) needs and circumstances.

Annex A provides a definition of open space

Annex B provides a typology of open space

One Wales One Planet: A New Sustainable Development Scheme for Wales, 2009

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/onewalesoneplanet/?lang=en>

The Scheme sets out a new vision of a sustainable Wales (replacing the 2006 Scheme) sustainable development.

Chapter 7: A Sustainable Society: Local quality of life

There will be more access to green space particularly in less well-off communities.

Heatwave Plan for Wales 2009: A Framework for Preparedness and Response

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/phhs/publications/heatwave09/090630heatwave09en.pdf>

Aims to enhance resilience in the event of a heatwave and to reduce the risks to health associated with extreme heat.

Objectives:

promote and facilitate long-term multi-agency planning to adapt to, and reduce the impact of, climate change, including 'greening the built environment'.....

Long term planning considerations: Stakeholders should consider the following long-term planning measures that would help reduce the impact of climate change:

Greening the built environment – trees, plants and green spaces act as natural air-conditioners, provide shade and absorb carbon dioxide. They also help to reduce the impact of flooding.

Play in Wales, October 2002

The Welsh Government play policy, setting out recognition of the vital importance of play, and a commitment that society should seek every opportunity to support it.

There is no direct or indirect reference to green space.

Play Policy Implementation Plan, February 2006

<http://wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/4038232/4038211/40382121/ssplay-policy-implementation1.pdf?lang=en>

This action plan sets out how the principles in the play policy will be implemented.

Section 4: Play in the Community

Recommendation 16: “That the Welsh Assembly Government ensure that Community Land Trusts (and others) have first refusal on any suitable public land that becomes available for sale, in order that pockets and areas of open space, wasteland and woodland, particularly within urban areas, where children and young people already play, can be protected.”